

program are generally not controversial or disruptive given the trauma of the clearance of a significant area.

** The Health Center Road extension, Old Tram Road connector, and the Lewis Street extension could be affected by urban renewal projects.*

Capital Improvement Programs

Capital programs are simply the coordination of planning and money. The capital improvements program, with respect to transportation, is a long range plan for the spending of money on street improvements, acquisition of rights-of-way and other improvements within the bounds of projected revenues. Municipal funds should be available for construction of street improvements which are a municipal responsibility; right-of-way cost sharing on facilities designated a Division of Highways responsibility; and advance purchase of right-of-way where such action is warranted.

Historically, cities and towns have depended, to a great degree, on Federal or State funding to solve their transportation problems. Chapter 136-Article 3A of the Road and Highway Laws of North Carolina clearly outlines the responsibilities and obligations of the various governmental bodies regarding highway improvements. North Carolina Highway Bill 1211, passed in 1988, limits the role of municipalities in right-of-way cost sharing for projects once they are programed in the NCDOT Transportation Improvement Program. Set-back regulations, right-of-way dedications and reservations play a major role in the ultimate cost of many facilities. Only in special cases will the municipality be able to enjoy the benefits of highway improvements without some form of investment.

Development Reviews

Driveway access to a State maintained street or highway is reviewed by the District Engineer's office and by the Traffic Engineering Branch of the North Carolina Department of Transportation prior to access being allowed. Any development expected to generate large volumes of traffic (ie., shopping centers, fast food restaurants, large industries, etc.) may be comprehensively studied by staff from the Traffic Engineering Branch, Statewide Planning Branch, and Roadway Design Branch of NCDOT. If done at an early stage, it is often possible to significantly improve the development's accessibility at minimal expense. Since the municipality is the first point of contact for developers, it is important that the municipality advise them of this review requirement and cooperate in the review process.

Other Funding Sources

1. Assess user impact fees to fund transportation projects. These fees, called "facility fees" in the